



# ANDREW'S VOICE

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
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[www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://www.standrewshespeler.ca)  
Advent Edition, 2019

## Anticipation

Scott McAndless

The season before Christmas has always been a season of anticipation for me. When I was small, there were so many things to look forward to: the annual visit to the big downtown department stores, going to see the big guy in the red suit, family gatherings and, above all, the anticipation of finally digging in to that huge pile of gifts that was forming underneath the tree. There were times when the anticipation was so intense that I felt as if I would burst.

As I grew older my focus shifted. I was no longer as obsessed with opening presents, but there was still so much to look forward to in the season – the gatherings of friends and families, the music, the atmosphere and, let's be honest here, most of all the food. That sense of anticipation remained always central to the season. In fact, I often feel that I get more out of the anticipation of certain events than I have gotten out of the events themselves, and that is alright. There is a certain joy to be taken in anticipation itself.

The church season of Advent is not the exact same thing as the secular season before Christmas; it is, nevertheless, very much a season of anticipation. As we use the readings of the Revised Common Lectionary during this Advent Season (which begins on December 1) we will find that many of the readings speak about that notion of making ready and looking forward. But the church, at least traditionally, has sharply diverged from the society around it during this season in one key way. The thing that Advent anticipates is not what the world around us anticipates. Advent does not look forward to Christmas, nor even towards the church season of Christmas and the story of the birth of Christ. The church season of Advent looks forward to the intervention of God into human history, into God's stepping in to this world in decisive ways to bring about justice, hope and renewal.

Even more importantly, Advent is about how we anticipate that action of God by being part of it through our preparation, our action and our trust in God. This year, as I approach the season of Advent, I've got to say that I feel that this is a message that we may need more than ever. At least, it often feels to me these days that the world is far off track from God's best intentions for us all. Advent is about all of us being a part of God's response to that problem.

So may this be a most glorious Advent season for you and for the people that you love. By all means, anticipate all of the most wonderful events and people of the coming Christmas season, but don't forget that you are also called to "Prepare the way of the Lord," in this world in your actions, prayers and anticipation.

## Hespeler Arts Palooza??

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Joni Smith

Our next issue, in January, will highlight "Hespeler Arts Palooza (HAP)" in greater detail, but here's a quick glimpse into the fun that is being planned, starting on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> with an exciting kick-off and ending with a celebration on Sunday, March 8, 2020.

Included in this time frame: Explorations in Music (mostly for children, but one time it will be for everyone), 4 different watercolour workshops by Debbie Ellis Watercolours, a birdhouse building/painting workshop for children, a weekly "morning" walk in the gym to start the day, knitting & crocheting lessons, Open Mic Night, a Hymn Sing & Tea and more! Stay tuned ...



Registration is now open for our Debbie Ellis painting workshops. Please go to <https://www.debbieelliswatercolours.ca/february-workshops.html> for sign up information and to see samples of the paintings we will be working on.

## An Important time for the congregation to gather

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Scott McAndless

At the 2018 annual congregational meeting, a motion was put forward and approved that *"the Session hold congregational meetings to determine a path forward, including youth, church building needs, how we serve our members and the community and what do to about declining attendance. These meetings should be a safe place to have conversations."*



Rev. John-Peter Smit

In addition, the session had also been told to arrange *"that the leadership and congregation engage in a facilitated workshop to encourage shared, whole-community responsibility, and to equip St. Andrew's Hespeler to pursue church health and growth, spiritual and practical"* in the report of the visitation committee from Presbytery. These two motions overlap somewhat.

The session would like you to know that we have not forgotten about these priorities. We have been working very seriously on the question of youth ministry, setting it as a top priority. As you will see from other parts of this newsletter, we made some significant progress on this issue and we have reported on that to the congregation in June and since. We had hoped to hold a workshop with the congregation this

fall, but timing and availability made that impossible.

We would like to announce that a workshop has been scheduled and is being planned for **Sunday, January 19, 2020**. Our special guest and facilitator will be the Rev. John-Peter Smit. Rev. Smit is the Congregational Development Consultant for the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda (affectionally known as CNOB). Our congregation is a part of this Synod.

John-Peter was born and raised in this Synod and has served the church as an ordained minister for almost thirty years. His previous congregations include the Chatsworth and Dornoch Pastoral Charge, Chedoke Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, Ontario and the First Presbyterian Church of Maitland, Florida.

John-Peter is married to Tori Smit, a Diaconal Minister who has been here many times through the years. They have two children, Jacob and Miriam. They also have two cats, Hobs and Ceilidh. When he is not engaged in ministry, he is busy playing with his MG Midget. He joined our Session for a retreat this past spring which was a very helpful event for renewal and recommitment.

Rev. Smit will preach during the morning worship service, helping to set the tone for the workshop to follow, and then we will meet downstairs in the fellowship hall for important discussions.

We also note with gratitude that Rev. Smit's leadership at this workshop and in worship will be paid for by the Synod of CNOB (which is supported by our Presbytery dues).



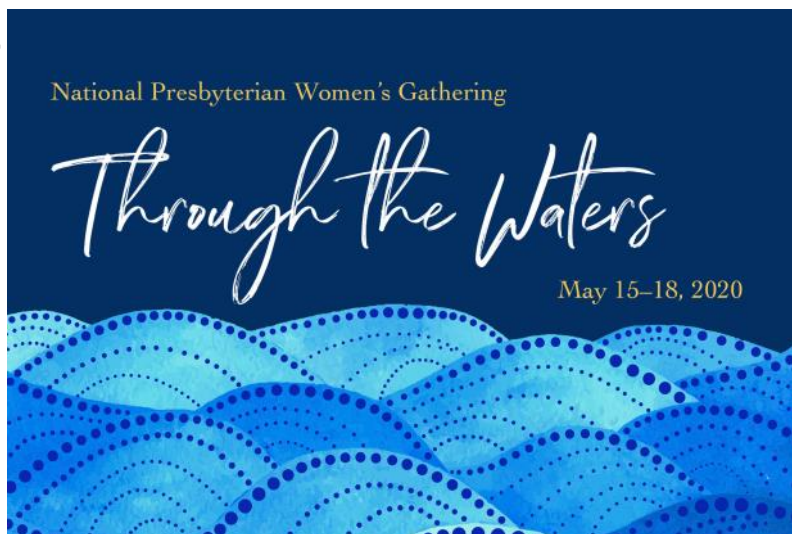
## Women's Missionary Society News

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Jean Godin

Here is your reminder that the deadline to register for the 2020 National Presbyterian Women's Gathering (May 15-18) and **save \$80 by getting the early registration rate** is November 30, 2019. You can find out all about this amazing event at [www.womensgathering.ca](http://www.womensgathering.ca). You can register at full price (\$475.00) until March 31, 2020.

The Athalie Read / WMS Christmas Potluck Lunch will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 11:30 am at Saint Luke's Place. Contact Jean Godin (519-658-6915) or Sylvia Westbrook (519-651-1374) for details or if you have any questions.



# GIVING TUESDAY™

On Sunday, **December 1st**, St. Andrew's is launching its second *GivingTuesday* campaign. *GivingTuesday* is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following the U.S. Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, *#GivingTuesday* kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

Our *GivingTuesday* campaign has a two-fold purpose. First, our Stewardship Committee has set a goal of raising \$45,000 (as outlined below). This year we have had some donations to be used for this campaign for matching funds. Currently, the first \$8000 will be matched!



Second, we will recognize and thank all of our volunteers and groups who use our facility. You are cordially invited to join us in a *GivingTuesday* celebration on Sunday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary of St. Andrew's. At this event you will experience the warmth of St. Andrew's at Christmas, as well as take part in a celebration of all those who both contribute to the vitality of St. Andrew's and utilize our wonderful facilities throughout the year! Our Thursday Night Supper & Social team will provide us with a delicious soup luncheon following our service. If you are able, please bring some buns or crackers to share. During this time of food & fellowship there will be opportunities to find out about our other groups, too.

On Sunday, December 22nd we will be sharing the results of our 2019 *GivingTuesday* campaign.

Our goal to raise \$45,000 between now and the end of 2019 is broken down as follows:

## **\$8,000 for community outreach including:**

- ◆ Hope Clothing which offers good clothing free of charge to over 100 people each month
- ◆ The Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank (every other week) which serves approximately 40 families each time & provides lunch for clients
- ◆ Counselling to families and individuals who need support
- ◆ A-A, Al-Anon and Al-Ateen
- ◆ The Thursday Night Supper and Social which provides a free meal to over 40 people every other week from October to April
- ◆ Community groups that provide development and mutual support



## \$10,000 for Christian Education & Development, including:

- ◆ Bible study
- ◆ Summer camp for children
- ◆ Children and Youth ministry

## \$27,000 for worship, including:

- ◆ Cost of our minister and music director
- ◆ Special seasonal services at Christmas and Easter
- ◆ Cost to maintain our Organ



Underpinning each of the identified goals is the cost to operate and maintain our beautiful historic facility. Approximately 25% of our budget at St. Andrew's goes toward the cost of a custodian, heat, hydro, water, insurance, telephone and ongoing maintenance. This translates to just over \$1,000 every week. We are blessed with an Operations Committee who, day in day out, are extremely judicious in the efficient and effective use of the operations and maintenance budget entrusted to their care and oversight.

## Choir Position Update

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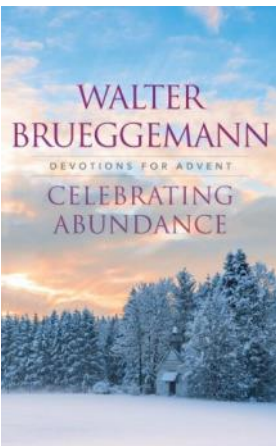
At its most recent meeting, the Session discussed the question of where the choir should sit and sing from. The session greatly appreciated all of the work that the choir and Corey Linforth did to consult with the congregation and try out different solutions. The session indicated that the choir and Music and Worship Committee have the full support of the session in how they wish to work out these matters.

## Presbyterians Read

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In Advent 2019, Presbyterians across the country are invited to join a denomination-wide book study on Walter Bruggemann's *Celebrating Abundance*.

Using thoughtfully prepared small group and individual weekly study guides, Presbyterians will journey through Advent reflecting on themes of God's abundance as revealed through the small details of faith stories..



To find out more about this initiative, go to [presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/presbyterians-read/](https://presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/presbyterians-read/)

There are three ways people can participate in Presbyterians Read:

1. Solo—Get a copy of *Celebrating Abundance* and read the devotions each day;
2. Small Group—Start or join a small group of people reading the daily devotions on their own but meeting to discuss what they've read once a week;
3. Online in our Facebook Group—Read the devotions each day and join the discussion with other Presbyterians in our Facebook study group.

# Christian Education News

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Joni Smith

Near the end of 2018 the Christian Education Committee made a commitment to offer more opportunities for people to participate in book/bible studies, in addition to the bible study, led by Rev. Scott McAndless on Wednesday mornings.

From January – June a group of mothers met once per month to participate in the study “Parenting through the Phases.” It was a great time to get together to share some of our experiences and learn a little about how to connect our celebrations and challenges to the Bible.

In the fall, two studies were started. The first one was chosen by our group of Deacons. It is called “Me & My Big Mouth” and has made all of us very conscious of the words we use. This study connected our current social norms and views with those in the Bible. We learned that words have weight and the more negative words, even just one or two, can tear down people instead of lifting them up. We decided to meet monthly to go through this four part series.

The second study is “Breathing Room” and is aimed at women, “who are doing everything and enjoying nothing because they are so busy trying to get everything done.” Sound familiar? Again, connections are made to the Bible to help us navigate through the study. We have learned about creating time, saying “no,” and observing the Sabbath. This is a unique group of women as the group is made up of different generations. It is nice to know that the problems of today aren’t necessarily new. It is also nice to share our wins creating Breathing Room with each other.

The Christian Education Committee has committed to offer one or two new studies in 2020, so please watch your bulletins and newsletters for information. If there is a topic of study that would interest you, please let Joni Smith know.



**Youth Ministries update:** Recently our youth held elections to select a Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer. I am happy to report the results as follows: Convenor: Isabella Cann; Secretary: Olivia Cann (Emily Byers is our back up Secretary); Treasurer: Kamryn Rattansingh (Zoe McAndless is our back up Treasurer). In the very near future you will see lots of updates from

Olivia detailing events, dates, and news. If you would like to support our youth there are many ways, please speak with me to find out how easy it is to support this wonderful group of young people.



# Sunday School News

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Joni Smith

**Sunday, December 22nd** is a special day for St. Andrew's. It is our **Annual Family Advent Sunday**. Our worship service will be completely "Family Friendly." Sunday School students will have a space to stretch out and do quiet, craft work or puzzles all the while still taking in the service. After the service we will enjoy a potluck lunch together. For the children there will be a special "Hot Chocolate Bar" And perhaps a couple other fun things! I've also received a message that, time permitting, we are on the Sunday itinerary of a **special visitor!** If able, please bring a peanut free, item of potluck to share with everyone. Feel free to bring your friends or grandchildren, everyone is welcome to join us.



Our **It's Almost New Year's Eve** party will be on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's. Back by popular demand – we will have our New Year's party on Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am. Come in your pyjamas, come for breakfast and fun. If anyone can help cook pancakes and serve, please speak with Joni. This year everyone will join us in the hall for family friendly worship, breakfast and fun!



**Summer Day Camp News!** The Christian Education Committee is excited to be bringing back Cairn Family of Camps—Camp in Your Own Backyard (CYOB), August 17—21, 2020.

Our fees for this camp have also changed this year, as follows:

Super Early Bird, register by March 1: \$50 per child; Early Bird, register by April 15: \$60 per child; Regular, register after April 15: \$75.00. No refunds will be given after June 30, 2020.

If you would like a registration form please speak with Joni Smith. The forms will also be available online in January.

This camp is for children entering JK—grade 6; grades 7+ are welcome to join us as assistants.

# The Music of the Season

Corey Linforth

## Longest Night

Our longest night service is held on December 21 which is a Saturday this year. It starts at 7:30 pm. It is a time to remember those that we have lost and to acknowledge the things that can be difficult, especially at this time of the year. The service is held in the sanctuary by candlelight and includes a simple communion service. It will feature reflective Christmas classics played by Zoé McAndless.

It has been such a delight to see this young violinist grow and learn since she first came to Hespeler. I am so grateful for the beautiful music she has brought us over the years and look forward to spending a quiet evening reflecting, in the middle of Christmas chaos, through her music.

## Christmas Around the World

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the St. Andrew's Adult Choir is proud to be joined by the Youth Band, Gerima Harvey (a djembe player), Erika Reiman (pianist), Karen McLeod (soprano), Alex Meizenger (alto), and the Cambridge Kiwanis Boys Choir.

Along with Christmas pieces from across the globe, we will hear some well-loved favourites. A male chorus comprised of the men from Joyful Sound! and tenors and basses from the Cambridge Kiwanis Boys Choir will be singing a capella versions of Silent Night and Comfort, Comfort Ye My People.

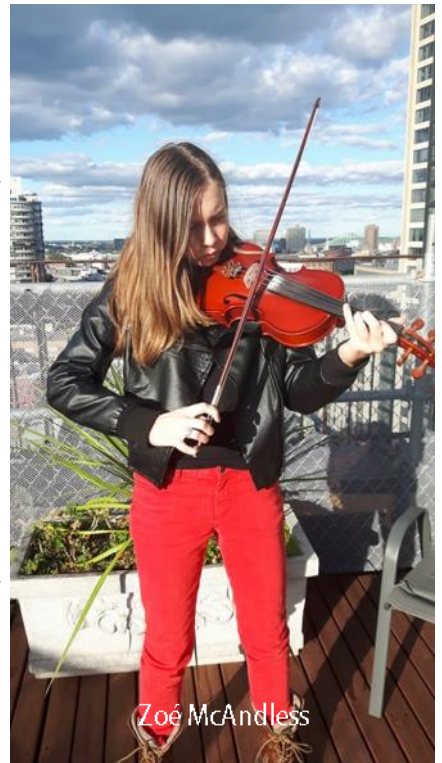
## Some of our guest artists:



Gerima Harvey

Gerima Harvey, a dynamic percussionist and soloist, is a member of many musical relationships. He hears the beat of yonder drummers and possesses a unique gift of being able to gel with any art form and artist.

From studio to stage, this magical musical genius inspires everyone, everywhere. His instrument is the djembe a rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum played with bare hands, originally from West Africa.



Zoé McAndless



**Alexandra Meinzinger** is a software developer and vocalist specializing in choral singing. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Mathematics with a Minor in Music from the University of Waterloo, where she sang with the UW Chamber Choir and the UW based A Cappella group the Intentional Accidentals.

Currently, she sings with the Da Capo Chamber Choir.



States (Detroit, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C.), and across Canada (Quebec, British Columbia, the Maritimes and Ontario).

The Cambridge Kiwanis Boys Choir was founded in the autumn of 1978 by the directors James Kropf and the late Jean Kropf to provide musical training for boys and young men and serve in the Region of Waterloo. Murray Jull served for many years as accompanist. Corey Linforth is currently music director for the choir in collaboration with Monica Admiral as accompanist. This award winning Choir is a member of the Royal School Of Church Music, Choirs Ontario, and the Choristers Guild. The Choir, in service to the community, annually performs at senior citizen's residences, nursing homes, schools, churches, shopping centres, and civic functions. Major community concerts are conducted at Christmas and in the Spring. The Concert Tours abroad have included England, Scotland, Wales, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Japan, the United



Erika Reiman currently teaches at Brock University, and has previously taught at Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Guelph, and the University of Toronto; she is also active as a freelance pianist and chamber musician. She is the author of Schumann's Piano Cycles and the Novels of Jean Paul, published in 2004 by the University of Rochester Press. In 2008 she was the soloist in the premiere of David Fawcett's Piano Concerto. At present she is the pianist for the new Hamilton chamber ensemble Wild Geese, accompanist for Chorus Hamilton, and both the Mixed and Women's Choruses at Brock University. For five seasons, she served as head coach and administrator for BrottOpera in Hamilton. She also maintains a home studio for pianists of all ages and vocal accompanying and coaching.

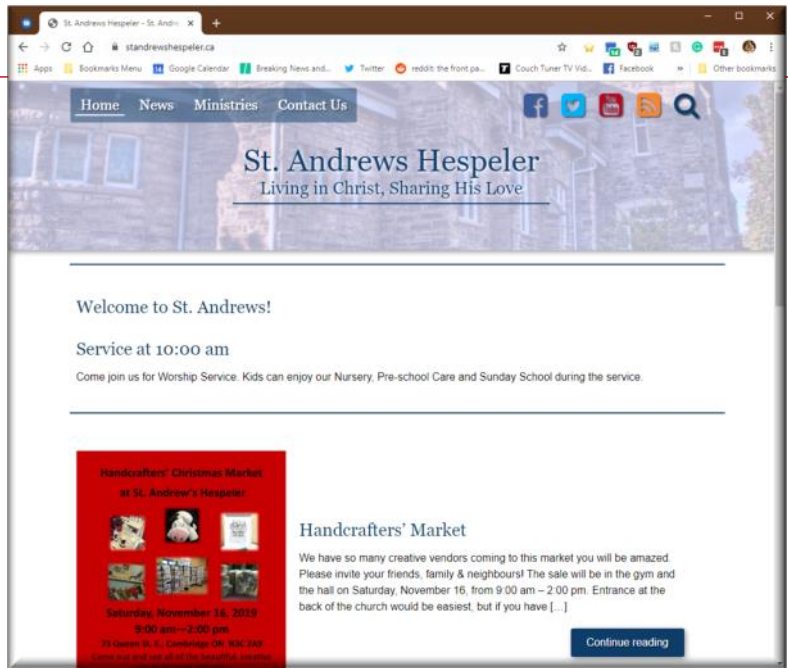


# Web Page Update

Joni Smith

You may have noticed that our website (standrewshespeler.ca) has been looking a bit different lately. In the past few months, our webmaster, Alex Goulet, has completely rebuilt our website. We thank you for your patience as we have encountered a few bugs and bumps along the way. We are so fortunate and grateful that Alex has shared his skills and talents with St. Andrew's. Thank you, Alex.

He has made the site much easier to use! Alex has done a lot of work to make sure the website looks and works properly from many devices. We are continuing to update the site and get all of the needed information on it in a manner that is easy for you to see and find. Please check the website out regularly to keep up to date.



## Basket Day!

Basket Day will be held during Food Bank Thursday on Christmas, December 12<sup>th</sup>. We need your help! Please consider adding an extra item or two to your shopping list:

- ⇒ laundry detergent and fabric softener,
- ⇒ soaps, shampoos,
- ⇒ razors,
- ⇒ deodorant,
- ⇒ cleaning products,
- ⇒ Kleenex, etc.
- ⇒ Canned pasta sauces
- ⇒ Pasta
- ⇒ Hot chocolate



All of these items will be appreciated. Please have your items in (under the Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary) by Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Any questions? Please speak with Joni Smith.

## Important Upcoming Dates

Date	Place	Time	Event
Sat. Nov. 23	Smith Residence	10 am-2pm	Creating our Santa Claus Parade Float
Sun. Nov. 24	Saint Luke's Place	2 pm	Annual Senior's Tea featuring Joyful Sound!
Sun. Dec. 1	Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall	10 am	First Sunday in Advent, Communion, GivingTuesday Kickoff. Celebration and lunch in Fellowship Hall.
Tues. Dec 3	Saint Luke's Place	11:30 am	Athalie Read WMS Potluck Lunch
Sat. Dec 7	Hespeler	Noon	Santa Claus Parade
Thurs. Dec 12	Fellowship Hall	11:30 am	Christmas Baskets at Foodbank
Sun. Dec 15	Sanctuary	10 am	Christmas Around the World
Thurs. Dec 19	Gymnasium	5 pm	Thursday Night Supper & Social Christmas feast
Sat. Dec 21	Sanctuary	7:30 pm	Longest Night Service
Tues. Dec 24	Sanctuary	6 pm	No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant
Tues. Dec 24	Sanctuary	8 pm	Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service
Sun. Dec 29	Lower hall	10 am	New Years Eve Eve Eve worship and celebration for all!
Sun. Jan 19	Sanctuary	10 am	Worship and Congregational Workshop with the Rev. John-Peter Smit
Sun. Jan 26	Sanctuary	10 am	Hespeler Arts Palooza Kickoff Celebration
Wed. Feb 19	Fellowship Hall	7 pm	Annual Finance Meeting
Sun. Feb 23	Fellowship Hall	After worship	Annual General meeting



Looking for stocking stuffers, grandparent gifts or teacher gifts? Small denomination gift cards available for Starbucks, Wendy's, Dollarama, Walmart, Chapters, Cineplex and Canadian Tire and more! Order dates November 24th and December 8th. Please think of helping your church by getting the gift cards that you give this Christmas through the church.

## The Back Page

Well, you have now read through this entire newsletter. Now let's see how much of it you remember. Can you fill out this whole crossword puzzle without looking back?



### ACROSS

- 6 Wear them December 29
- 7 Christian writer
- 9 Alex Goulet
- 10 Making me wait

### DOWN

- 1 After Black Friday and Cyber Monday
- 2 Treasurer for youth group
- 3 An international service club
- 4 An exaggerated event
- 5 A medium for painting
- 8 West African Drum